REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicant acknowledges, with thanks, receipt of the Office Action mailed August 27, 2004. The Applicant further acknowledges, with thanks, completion of the personal interview on November 10, 2004. The subject amendment is provided to address the concerns expressed by the Examiner, and to place all remaining claims in condition for allowance over the art of record. The original application was filed with 30 claims. Claims 25-50 have already been canceled. In the subject response, claims 1-7 have been amended to be more patentably distinct over the art of record. Claims 8-24 have also been canceled. New claims 31-37 have been added.

SECTION BACKGROUND

By way of review, the subject application teaches a system by which specified cover sheets are printed from a plurality of workstations in a shared document processing peripheral environment. In the subject system, each of a plurality of workstations includes a document processing application. Each workstation is also loaded with a specific printer driver to allow for communication to a user, at the workstation, a list of available cover sheet options. The driver prompts the user for input relative to selected options available for cover sheet generation. The user then makes these selections from such available options and the driver communicates the selected options to a controller associated with the document processing device. The document processing device, in turn, creates a cover sheet in accordance with the specification supplied to it via the dedicated printer driver. The network system allows for batched or concurrently requested cover sheet generating jobs to be received from each of a plurality of network workstations.

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KNODT ET AL. PATENT

U.S. Patent No. 5,124,731 to Knodt et al. is directed to a single-user printing system which includes an ability to generate cover sheets. As noted by the Examiner in the recent Office Action, Knodt et al. fails to disclose a network-based system wherein print jobs are communicated from a workstation to a control unit for performing the print job. Accordingly, Knodt et al. further fails to disclose a mechanism by which a plurality of workstations may be used to send batched or concurrent requests for cover sheet generation jobs. Additionally, Knodt et al. fails to teach or infer any mechanism by which a specified driver may be loaded on an each associated workstation wherein the driver communicates available options to a user, under a call from an associated document processing application. Knodt et al. further fails to disclose a mechanism by which such driver further passes cover sheet generation data to a controller for accomplishing a printing thereof.

FARRELL PATENT

U.S. Patent No. 5,559,595 is directed to a system for scheduling inversions of post printing sheets. Farrell is directed to a printing system which includes a mechanism for specific sheet handling. The system envisions being connected to a single workstation via a network. Farrell does not teach, nor infer, a system by which a plurality of workstations are operable so as to include a driver that will communicate available cover sheet generation options, and relay these options to a controller for generation of a selected cover sheet. Farrell is silent as to the particular applications or drivers that are disposed on a network workstation, and a mechanism by which such information available relative to cover sheets is communicated to a user and relayed to a network printing device.

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CLAIMS 1-7 ARE IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE OVER THE ART OF RECORD

Claim 1 has been amended to render more clear the distinctions between the limitations and the art of record. More particularly, claim 1 has been amended to reflect that a plurality of workstations are included, each of which have a dedicated printer driver which serves to allow for requests of specified cover sheet parameters. The limitations now clarify that the printer driver relays to an associated user information of available cover sheet properties. The printer driver then receives, from the associated user, selected aspects chosen from these available cover sheet options. The driver, in turn, relays information relative to these selections to a controller, which controller functions to generate cover sheets in accordance with the selected parameters.

As noted above, the art of record fails to disclose a system of networked workstations which include such functionality. The subject system advantageously allows for loading of the specialized printer drivers on each of a plurality of workstations. General document processing applications are enabled to call this printer driver. A user is then prompted with available cover sheet information, which information is retrieved and relayed to a controller. The controller, which services a plurality of workstations, then functions to render the cover pages in accordance with the user specified instructions.

In accordance with the foregoing, amended claim 1 includes limitations neither taught, nor inferred by either Knodt et al. or Farrell, alone or in combination. The limitations of claim 1 provide for enhanced functionality and usability in a networked printing environment. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is patentably distinct over the art of record and in condition for allowance thereof.

Claims 2-7 provide additional limitation to the subject matter of claim 1. Accordingly, for the reasons noted above, these claims are also in condition for allowance over the art of record.

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New claims 31-37 have been added. These claims provide for a system analogous to the method in claims 1-7, discussed above. Accordingly, for the reasons noted above, these claims include limitations that are patentably distinct over the art of record and are in condition for allowance thereover.
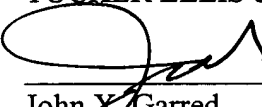
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and comments, all claims are patentably distinct over the art of record. An early allowance of all claims is respectfully requested and respectfully submitted. If the Examiner believes there are any further matters, which need to be discussed in order to expedite the prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

If there are any fees necessitated by the foregoing communication, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0902, referencing our Docket No. 66329-97295B.

Respectfully submitted,

TUCKER ELLIS & WEST LLP
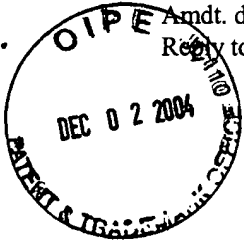
Date: _November 29, 2004_

John X. Garred
Registration No. 31,830
Customer No. 23380
1150 Huntington Building
925 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44115-1475
(216) 696-3340 (phone)
(216) 592-5009 (fax)

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any paper referenced as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited on the below date with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: Nov. 29, 2004

Name: Valerie A. Salvino

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